

PROFESSIONAL-TECHNICAL SYSTEM HIGHLIGHTS

Idaho's professional-technical education system continued to grow this past year, consistent with the significant growth between 1999 and 2004. Over the last five years:

- Two hundred twenty-three (223) new high school programs were activated with a net increase of 13% (137 programs were discontinued).
- High school PTE enrollment increased 9%.
- Technical college enrollments were up 30% (19% in full-time equivalent).
- Tech Prep enrollment increased 423%.
- Professional-technical school enrollment increased by 424%.

High school PTE enrollment grew by 1.6% this past year while technical college enrollment increased by 4% (headcount and full-time equivalent).

Tech Prep enrollment increased 24% last year.

The PTE system continued its emphasis on improving program quality, by increasing technical rigor, integrating academic and technical skills and providing improved articulation between high school and college.

Idaho's technical colleges played a key role in a number of rural development projects last year. For example:

- Computerized Numerical Control training was conducted by College of Southern Idaho anticipating the relocation of a high tech company.
- Certified Nurse Assistant and Nurse Aide training were conducted in rural communities by North Idaho College, Lewis Clark State College and Boise State University. Areas served included St. Maries, Bonners Ferry, Wallace, Moscow, Orofino, Cottonwood and Grangeville and Fruitland. Training was delivered onsite and online.
- Apprenticeship training for students in rural communities was offered via correspondence course by Boise State University.
- Security and Fraud Prevention training (using FBI trainers) was delivered to Shoshone Bannock tribal members by Idaho State University.
- Electronics program access was given to rural high schools through an NIDA distance learning program conducted through Eastern Idaho Technical College and the Tech Prep initiative in that area. Students used the NIDA equipment and a web based curriculum offered in concert with EITC.

Two significant collaborative efforts to expand training opportunities for Idaho firefighters took place last year:

- Idaho's Emergency Services Training and Oregon's Department of Public Safety Standards and Training (DPSST) co-sponsored a live-fire training to give firefighters in western Idaho and eastern Oregon access to multiple live-fire training props.
- Idaho's Emergency Services Training for structural fire fighters and the Bureau of Land Management training for wild land fires expanded the ability of the state to share instructors and training.

An active role was taken in the creation and development of the newly formed Idaho Science, Mathematics and Technology Coalition (ISMTC). The ISMTC serves to unite education, business and government to improve attitudes, interest and achievement in Math, Science and Technology.

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Project Lead-The-Way (PLTW) pre-engineering programs started in Meridian, Boise and Nampa school districts. The pre-engineering program is a four-year sequence of courses which, when integrated with math and science courses, introduces students to the scope, rigor and discipline of engineering and engineering technology programs prior to entering college.

A three-year CompTIA membership was purchased for the six technical colleges and all high school technical programs statewide. Membership provides CompTIA Information Technology testing certifications at a substantially reduced rate. Certifications include A+, Network+, Serve+, i-Net+, and Linux+. Instructors teaching courses may take certification tests for free and students can take certification tests at half-price.

The Workforce Training Network (WTN), along with the Idaho Division of Professional-Technical Education, coordinated training resources from all six technical colleges in cooperation with the Department of Commerce and Labor. In addition, Workforce Training Fund grants provided customized training to new Idaho employees through the technical college system. Technical colleges provided training for companies awarded Workforce Training Fund grants in FY2004.

The Division of Professional-Technical Education purchased a statewide license for LearnKey products through a grant from the Albertson Foundation. LearnKey designs classroom instructional material on-line and by CD Rom. Schools used the materials for staff, faculty and student training.

STOP-the-Violence training was conducted for members of student organizations, counselors, resource officers and instructors. Schools that attended committed to conducting training at their school. In addition, the Governor signed a STOP-the-Violence Week Proclamation.

Basic firefighter training was promoted in all departments within the state, resulting in placement of basic firefighter training materials in more than 110 fire departments statewide and establishment of 22 new Firefighter One training programs. Six regional check-out libraries of instructor materials and videos were established to facilitate easier access to training materials.

GOVERNANCE

Idaho has a streamlined educational structure with a single State Board of Education responsible for all public education from kindergarten through graduate school. The single Board of Education structure in Idaho allows for a coordinated, accountable system of education, working cohesively for the betterment of the citizens of Idaho.

Statutory authority for the Division of Professional-Technical Education is delineated in Idaho Code, Chapter 22, §§ 33-2201 through 33-2212 and IDAPA 55. Section 33-2202 defines Professional-Technical Education as secondary, postsecondary and adult courses, programs, training and services administered by the Division of Professional-Technical Education for occupations or careers that require other than a baccalaureate, master's or doctoral degree. The courses, programs, training and services include, but are not limited to, vocational, technical and applied technology education. They are delivered through the professional-technical delivery system of public secondary and postsecondary schools and colleges.

The Division of Professional-Technical Education is the administrative arm of the State Board for Professional-Technical Education, and provides leadership, advocacy and technical assistance for professional-technical education in Idaho, from secondary through adult. The Division provides the focus for professional-technical education within existing schools and institutions by targeting resources, organizing and applying industry input, providing technical assistance to program areas, managing programs and providing leadership for student organizations. The Division also acts as the administrative agency for the State Occupational Information Coordinating Committee.

The role of the Division of Professional-Technical Education is to administer professional-technical education in Idaho. The Division:

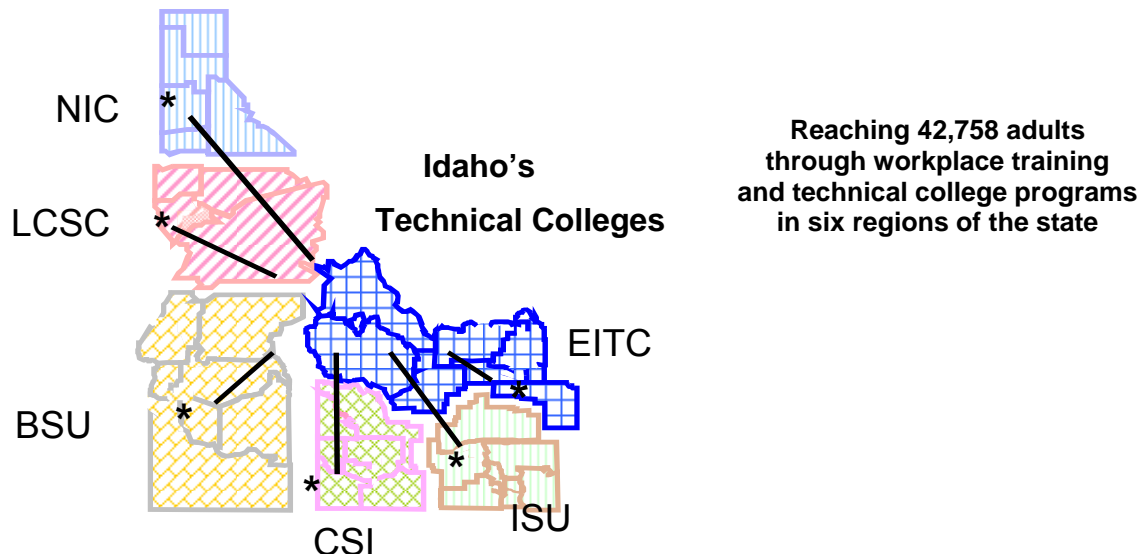
- provides statewide leadership and coordination for professional-technical education
- assists local educational agencies in program planning, development and evaluation
- promotes the availability and accessibility of professional-technical education
- prepares annual and long-range state plans
- prepares an annual budget to present to the State Board and the Legislature
- provides a state finance and accountability system for professional-technical education
- evaluates professional-technical education programs
- initiates research, curriculum development and professional development activities
- collects, analyzes, evaluates, and disseminates data and program information
- administers programs in accordance with state and federal legislation
- coordinates professional-technical education related activities with other agencies, officials and organizations

Idaho's Professional-Technical Education System is the state's primary educational delivery system for preparing Idaho's workforce. Professional-technical education programs are integrated into a larger, academic institutional structure through public school districts or colleges and universities.

Postsecondary -- Postsecondary professional-technical education programs and services are delivered through a statewide system of six technical colleges. Technical colleges deliver occupational programs on a full- or part-time basis, adult upgrading and retraining, customized training, related instruction for apprentices and emergency services training which includes fire service, hazardous materials and anti-terrorism training. Workforce development/customized training (short-term training), delivered through the technical college system, trains individuals who need to upgrade their current job skills and/or develop new job skills to remain in their current occupation or find new employment. This training also responds directly to the specific needs of new and expanding business and industry. Each technical college has a Center for New Directions to provide individual assessment, counseling, job readiness training and supportive services as a complementary and effective component prior to and during training. Many of the technical colleges are also responsible for adult basic education (ABE).

Three of the six technical colleges are part of four-year institutions, two are part of community colleges, and one is a stand-alone technical college. Idaho's six technical colleges are:

- Boise State University Larry G. Selland College of Applied Technology (Boise)
- College of Southern Idaho Professional-Technical Division (Twin Falls)
- Eastern Idaho Technical College (Idaho Falls)
- Idaho State University College of Technology (Pocatello)
- Lewis Clark State College School of Technology (Lewiston)
- North Idaho College School of Applied Technology (Coeur d'Alene)



Secondary -- Secondary professional-technical education programs and services are provided through junior high/middle schools, comprehensive high schools, professional-technical schools and cooperative programs with the technical colleges.

Linkages -- Tech Prep links secondary and postsecondary professional-technical programs through written and approved articulation agreements between high schools and technical colleges. These agreements help students prepare for work by linking two years of education in high school with two or more years in technical college. Tech Prep allows students to shorten and/or enhance their postsecondary education because they have earned postsecondary credit while in high school.